

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1953

## GLOUCESTER UNLUCKY AT TWICKENHAM

### UNITED CREATE CLUB RECORD WITH 26<sup>TH</sup> WIN

A small yellow envelope delivered to skipper Bob Hodge a few minutes before the kick-off was the prelude to a number of positional changes which undoubtedly played a part in costing Gloucester their game against Harlequins at Twickenham by 11pts.-13.

The envelope contained the disappointing news that winger John Taylor, due to travel from Bristol, had missed his train.

Hodge was forced to bring Ibbotson out of the pack to take Taylor's place, move to wing-forward himself, and complete the forwards by the inclusion of young John Bowdler, whose only experience was with Gloucester Old Boys and a few appearances for the United.

Yet Bowdler proved himself one of the successes of the game. The tall youngster did great work in the lines-out – he was almost comparable with Gwilliam – and stood out prominently in the loose.

His crowning achievement was a well-deserved try shortly before the interval.

### END-TO-END PLAY

The game was characterised by solid grafting rather than constructive rugby, but it was never dull.

Harlequins proved a tough proposition, but Gloucester, with Burford again hooking well, had the better of the early exchanges and fully earned their interval lead.

Both sides launched attacks in turn in the second half and play often went from end to end.

But one inspired spell by the 'Quins brought them two tries through Marshall and Harris, both of which Grimsdell, who had previously kicked a mark goal, improved.

And subsequent desperate onslaughts by Gloucester forwards proved of no avail until Gwilliam sold a "dummy" shortly before the end and dived over between the posts.

Baker, who landed the visitors' penalty goal in the first half, made the easy conversion.

#### HONOURS FOR PACK

Dennis Ibbotson, with the few chances that came his way, tried hard to break through on the wing, but he obviously longed to be back in his own position in the thick of the fray.

All the backs worked hard and kept their opposite numbers well in check.

Chief honours went to Gloucester's pack, however.

Hastings, Parry and Wells were towers of strength in the set scrums, and besides Bowdler's work in the loose, Gwilliam, Hodge and Ford were there to provide deft touches, some of which deserved better fate.

Gloucester were extremely unlucky to lose, and a draw would have been a fair result to a struggle which never lacked interest.

## UNITED ACHIEVED AMBITION

A grand all-round effort and splendid team-work enabled Gloucester United to beat Bristol Aero 11pts.-3 and thus establish a club record by achieving 26 wins during the season.

United were keen to secure the club record, and the visitors were equally as enthusiastic to preserve their unbeaten run for their last 20 matches.

Spectators anticipated a dour struggle, but were delighted when the ball was given plenty of air.

Gloucester owe a great deal to Bill Cartmell, whose dazzling footwork and clever moves were a treat to watch.

Well partnered by Nield, who was given more than a fair share of the ball from the set scrums by hooker Ken Taylor, Cartmell was the inspiration to the threes and forwards in the loose.

Bill Smith played a very sound defensive game at full back.

Gordon Hudson and Nield claimed Gloucester tries, one of which Smith converted. Smith also kicked a penalty goal. The visitors scored an unconverted try.